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MESSAGE TO CONGRESS.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND'S SECOND ANNUAL MESSAGE.

What He Recommends to the Last Session of the Forty-Ninth Congress--A Shorter Document Than the Previous One--Important Features of the Message.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—President Cleveland's message opens with the usual survey of foreign relations, and one-third of it is devoted to a discussion and review of such relations. Our government, he says, has consistently maintained its relations of friendship toward all other powers, and of neighborly interest toward those whose possessions are contiguous to our own. Few questions have arisen during the past year with other governments and none of those are beyond the reach of settlement in friendly council. The cruel treatment of inoffensive Chinese in the far west is alluded to and in speaking of a remedy, he says the paramount duty of maintaining public order and defending the interests of our own people may require the adoption of measures of restriction, but they should not tolerate the oppression of individuals of a special race.

Discussing the fisheries question, so long a subject of anxious difference between the United States and Great Britain, the president says the questions involved are of grave consequence, and from time to time, for nearly three quarters of a century, have given rise to earnest international discussions, not unaccompanied by insinuation. Temporary arrangements by treaties have served to allay friction which, however, has revived as each treaty was terminated. While desirous that friendly relations should exist between the people of the United States and Canada, the action of Canadian officials during the past season toward our fishermen has been such, the president thinks, as to threaten their continuance, and although disappointed in his efforts to secure a satisfactory settlement of the question, negotiations are still pending with reasonable hope that before the close of the present session of congress, an announcement made by him that an acceptable conclusion has been reached.

Alluding to our relations with Hawaii the president recommends an extension for seven years of the reciprocity treaty of 1875. He urgently renews his recommendations of legislation to carry into effect the Mexican reciprocity treaty of January, 1881, and proposes to initiate negotiations with Mexico for a new and enlarged treaty of commerce and legislation.

Referring to the Cutting case, he says the incident has disclosed a claim of jurisdiction by Mexico, novel in one history, whereby any offense, committed anywhere by a foreigner, penal in the place of its commission, and of which a Mexican is the object, may, if the offender be found in Mexico, be there tried and punished in conformity with Mexican laws. This jurisdiction was sustained by the courts of Mexico, and approved by the executive branch of that government, upon the authority of a Mexican statute. The appellate court, in releasing Mr. Cutting, decided that the abandonment of the complaint by the Mexican citizen aggrieved by the alleged crime (a libelous publication), removed the bases of further prosecution, and also declared justice to have been satisfied by the enforcement of a small part of the original sentence.

The admission of such a pretension, the president argues, would be attended with serious results, invasive of the jurisdiction of the government, and highly dangerous to our citizens in foreign lands; therefore he has denied it and protested against its attempted exercise, as unwarranted by the principles of law and international usage. A sovereign has jurisdiction of offenses which take effect within his territory, although connected or commenced outside of it; but the right is denied of any foreign sovereign to punish a citizen of the United States for an offense committed on our soil, in violation of our laws, even though the offense be against a subject or citizen of such sovereign. The Mexican statute in question makes the claim broadly, and the principle, if conceded, would make a dual responsibility in the citizen, and lead to inextricable confusion, destructive of that certainty in the law which is an essential of liberty.

When citizens of the United States voluntarily go into a foreign country, they must abide by the laws therein in force, and will not be protected by their own government from the consequences of an offense against those laws committed in such foreign country, but watchful care and interest of this government over its citizens are not relinquished because they have gone abroad; and if charged with crime committed in the foreign land a fair and open trial, conducted with decent regard for justice and humanity, will be demanded for them. With less than that the government will not be content when the life or liberty of its citizens is at stake. Whatever the degree to which extra territorial criminal jurisdiction may have been formerly allowed by consent and reciprocal agreement among certain of the European states, no such doctrine or practice was ever known to the laws of this country, or of that from which our institutions have mainly been derived.

In the case of Mexico, there are reasons especially strong for perfect harmony in the mutual exercise of jurisdiction. Nature has made us irrevocably neighbors and wisdom and kind feeling should make us friends. The overflow of capital and enterprise from the United States is a potent factor in assisting the development of the resources of Mexico and in building up the prosperity of both countries. To assist this good work, all grounds of apprehension for the security of person and property should be removed, and the president trusts that in the interests of good neighborhood the statute referred to will be so modified as to eliminate the present possibilities of danger to the peace of the two countries.

The president recommends placing the consular service on a better footing and reiterates the necessity of some mode of inspection and report of the manner in which the consulates are conducted.

He trusts international copyright will receive the attention it deserves by congress. He recommends that provision be made

for the immediate discharge from custody of persons committed for extradition where the president is of opinion that surrender should not be made and renews his recommendation of last year that existing legislation concerning citizenship and naturalization be revised. We have, he says, treaties with many states providing for the resumption of citizenship by naturalized aliens, but no statute is found to give effect to such engagements, nor any which provides a needed central bureau for the registration of naturalized citizens.

Reaching domestic affairs, the first subject discussed is the tariff, and to this the president devotes a great deal of space, arguing that the necessity for a reduction of the tariff is more urgent than ever. The income of the government, he says, by its increased volume through economies in its collection, is now less than ever in excess of public necessities. The application of the surplus to the payment of such portion of the public debt as is now at our option subject to extinguishment, if continued at the rate which has lately prevailed, would retire that class of indebtedness within less than one year from this date.

Thus a continuation of our present revenue system would soon result in the receipt of an annual income much greater than necessary to meet government expenses, with no indebtedness upon which it could be applied. We should then be confronted with a vast quantity of money, the circulating medium of the people, hoarded in the treasury when it should be in their hands, or we should be driven into wasteful public extravagance with all the corrupting National demoralization which follow in its train. But it is not the simple existence of this surplus and its threatened attendant evils which furnish the strongest argument against our present scale of Federal taxation. Its worst phase is the exaction of such a surplus through a perversion of the relations between its people and their government, and a dangerous departure from the rules which limit the right of Federal taxation.

Good government, and especially the government of which every American citizen boasts, has for its objects the protection of every person within its care in the greatest liberty consistent with the good order of society and his perfect securement in the enjoyment of his earnings with the least possible limitation for public needs. When more of the people's substance is exacted through the form of taxation than is necessary to meet the just obligations of the government and the expense of its economical administration, such exaction becomes ruthless extortion and a violation of the fundamental principles of a free government.

The indirect manner in which these exactions are made, has a tendency to conceal their true character and their extent, but we have arrived at a stage of superfluous revenue which has aroused the people to a realization of the fact, that the amount varied professedly for the support of the government, is paid by them as absolutely, if added to the price of the things which supply their daily wants, as if it was paid at fixed periods into the hand of the tax-gatherer.

Those who toil for daily wages are beginning to understand that capital, though sometimes vaunting in ignorance and clamor for the protection and favor of the government, is dual and sluggish, till, touched by the magical hand of labor, it springs into activity, furnishing an occasion for federal taxation, and gaining the value which enables it to bear its burden. And the laboring man is thoughtfully inquiring whether in these circumstances and considering the tribute he continuously pays into the public treasury as he supplies his daily wants he receives his fair share of advantages.

There is also a suspicion abroad that the surplus of our revenues indicates abnormal and exceptional business profits, which under the system which produces such surplus, increases without corresponding benefit to the people, the vast accumulation of a few among our citizens whose fortunes, rivaling the wealth of the most favored in anti-democratic nations, are not the natural growth of a steady, plain and industrious republic.

Our farmers, too, and those engaged directly and indirectly in supplying the products of agriculture see that day by day and, as often as the daily wants of their households recur, they are forced to pay excessive and needless taxation, while their products struggle in foreign markets with the competition of nations, which by allowing a freer exchange of productions than we permit, enable their people to sell for prices which distress the American farmer.

As every patriotic citizen rejoices in the constantly increasing pride of our people in American citizenship and in the glory of our natural achievements and progress, a sentiment prevails that the leading strings useful to a nation in its infancy, may be well to a great extent discarded in present stages of American ingenuity, courage and fearless self-reliance, and for the privilege of indulging the sentiment with true American enthusiasm, and citizens are quite willing to forego an idle surplus in the public treasury, and all the people know that the average rate of Federal taxation upon imports is to-day, in time of peace, but little less, while upon some articles of necessary consumption it is actually more than was imported by the grievous burden willingly borne, at a time when the government reached millions to maintain by war the safety and integrity of the union.

It has been the policy of the government to collect the principal part of its revenues by a tax upon imports; and no change in this policy is desirable. But the present condition of affairs constrains our people to demand, that by a revision of our revenue laws, the receipts of the government shall be reduced to the necessary expense of its economical administration; and this demand should be recognized and obeyed by the people's representatives in the legislative branch of the government.

In readjusting the burdens of Federal taxation, a sound public policy requires that such of our citizens as have built up large and important industries under present conditions, should not be suddenly and to their injury deprived of advantages to which they have adapted their business; but if the public good requires it, they should be content with such consolation as shall deal fairly and cautiously with their interests, while the just demand of the people for relief from needless taxation is honestly answered. A reasonable and timely submission to such a demand should certainly be possible without

a disastrous shock to any interest; and a cheerful concession sometimes averts abrupt and heedless action, often the outgrowth of impatience and delayed justice.

Due regard should be also accorded in any proposed readjustment to the interests of American labor, so far as they are involved. We congratulate ourselves that there is among us no laboring class fixed within unyielding bonds and doomed under all conditions, to the exorable fate of daily toil. We recognize in labor a chief factor in the wealth of the republic, and we treat those who have it in their keeping as citizens entitled to the most careful regard and thoughtful attention. This regard and attention should be awarded them not only because labor is the capital of our workingmen, justly entitled to its share of government favor, but for the further and not less important reason that the laboring man, surrounded by his family in his humble home, as a consumer, is vitally interested in all that cheapens the cost of living and enables him to bring within his domestic circle additional comforts and advantages.

This relation of the workingman to the revenue laws of the country, and the manner in which it palpably influences the question of wages, should not be forgotten in the justifiable prominence given to the proper maintenance of the supply and protection of well paid labor. And these considerations suggest such an arrangement of government revenues as shall reduce the expense of living, while it does not curtail the opportunity for work, nor reduce the compensation of American labor and injuriously effect its condition and the dignified state it holds in the estimation of our people.

But our farmers and agriculturists, those who from the soil produce the things consumed by all, are perhaps more directly and plainly concerned than any other of our citizens, in a just and careful system of Federal taxation.

Those actually engaged in and more remotely connected with this kind of work number nearly one-half our population. None labor harder or more continually than they. No enactments limit their hours of toil and no interposition of the government to any great extent, the value of their products. And yet for the many necessities of life, which the most scrupulous economy enables them to bring into their homes, and for their implements of husbandry they are obliged to pay a price largely increased by an unnatural profit, which, by the action of the government, is given to the more favored manufacturer.

I recommend that, keeping in view all these considerations, the increasing and unnecessary surplus of national income annually accumulating, be released to the people, by an amendment to our revenue laws which shall cheapen the prices of the necessities of life—give freer entrance to such imported materials as by American labor may be manufactured into marketable commodities.

Nothing can be accomplished, however, in the direction of this much-needed reform unless the subject is approached in a patriotic spirit of devotion to the interests of the entire country, and with a willingness to yield something for the public good.

While on the subject of tariff and revenue, the president especially directs the attention of congress to the recommendations of the secretary of the treasury, touching the simplification and amendments of the laws relating to the collection of revenues.

Less space is devoted to the silver question this year than last, but his opposition to compulsory coinage is no less pronounced. The difference in the bullion price of the standard dollar, ninety-four and one-quarter cents, when first coined and its bullion value, seventy-eight cents, on the 30th of last November, certainly does not indicate, the president says, that compulsory coinage by the government enhances the price of the commodity, or secures uniformity in its value. He has seen no reason to change the views expressed a year ago on the subject of compulsory coinage and again urges its suspension on all the grounds, contained in his former recommendation, reinforced by the significant increase of our gold exportations during the last year and for the further reasons, that the more this currency is distributed among the people the greater becomes our duty to protect it from disaster; that we now have an abundance for all our needs and that there seems but little propriety in building vaults to store such currency, when the only pretense for its coinage is the necessity of its use by the people as a circulating medium.

The attention of congress is called to the great number of suits in New York growing out of conflicting views by importers and collectors as to the interpretation of our complex and indefinite revenue laws, and an amendment of the law is recommended; but pending such amendment the present condition of this litigation should be relieved by a law permitting the appointment of an additional Federal judge in New York where these cases have accumulated.

Of coast defenses and fortifications, the president says the defenseless condition of our sea coast and lake frontiers are palpable, and the work laid out by the board on fortifications is delayed in default of congressional action. The absolute necessity of our preparation for effectual resistance against armored ships and modern steel guns which may threaten our sea coast cities is so apparent that he hopes effective steps will be taken in that direction at once.

The condition of our navy, as shown by the secretary of that department, should challenge the early attention of congress. The production in the United States of armor and gun-steel is a question which it seems necessary to settle at an early day, if the armored war vessels are to be completed with those materials of home manufacture.

In the event that the present invitation of the department for bids to furnish such of this material as is now authorized shall fail to induce domestic manufacturers to undertake the large expenditures required to prepare for this new manufacture, and no other steps are taken by congress at its coming session, the secretary contemplates with dissatisfaction the necessity of obtaining abroad the arms and the gun-steel for the authorized ships. It would seem desirable, the president adds, that the wants of the army and the navy in this regard should be reasonably met, and that by uniting their contracts, such inducement might be offered as would result in securing the domestication of these important interests.

Postal service affairs show marked and gratifying improvement during the past

year; the increase of revenue is in a gaining ratio over the increase of cost, demonstrating the sufficiency of the present cheap rates of postage ultimately to sustain the service. The difference with certain ocean steamship companies, were terminated by the acquiescence of all in the policy of the government, thus affording a service generally adequate to the needs of our intercourse. The question of establishing ocean postal service to Brazil and the Argentine Republic is commended to the consideration of congress, and the suggestion is offered, that as distinguished from a grant or subsidy for the mere benefit of any line, whatever outlay may be required to secure additional, necessary and proper service, should be regarded as within the limit of legitimate compensation for such service.

The president endorses the recommendation of the attorney general for the erection of a penitentiary for the confinement of prisoners convicted in United States courts. He considers it a matter of very great importance, which should at once receive congressional action. More than one of these institutions might be erected, and by employing the prisoners in the manufacture of articles needed for use by the government quite a large pecuniary benefit would be realized in partial return for the outlay of construction. He endorses the recommendations of the attorney general for a change in the Federal judicial system, to obviate the delays necessarily attending the present condition of affairs in our courts.

Of Indian affairs, he says the present system of agencies standing alone is inadequate for the accomplishment of an object which has become pressing in its importance—the more rapid transition from tribal organization to citizenship of such portions of the Indians as are capable of civilized life, and hence the necessity for supplemental agency, a commission of six intelligent persons—three from the army—charged with the management of such matters of detail as cannot with the present organization, be properly and successfully conducted. The time is ripe, the president tells congress, for the work of such an agency.

The president recommends the repeal of the pre-emption and timber culture acts, and that the homestead law be so amended as to better secure compliance with their requirements of residence, improvement and cultivation for five years from date of entry without commutation or provision for speculative relinquishment. Referring to the satisfactory exhibit of the operations of the pension bureau during the last fiscal year, and to pension matters generally, the president says the usefulness and the justice of any system for the distribution of pension depends upon the equity and uniformity of its operations, and as long as we adhere to the principle of granting pensions for service and disability as the result of service, the allowance of pensions should be restricted to cases presenting these features.

"Every patriotic heart," he says, "responds to a tender consideration for those who, having served their country long and well, are reduced to destitution and dependence, not as an incident of their service but with advancing age and misfortune. We are all tempted by the contemplation of such a condition to supply relief, and are often impatient of the limitations of public duty. Yielding to no one in the desire to indulge this feeling of consideration, I cannot rid myself of the conviction that if these ex-soldiers are to be relieved, they and their cause are entitled to the benefit of an enactment under which relief may be claimed as a right, and that such relief should be granted under the sanction of law, not in evasion of it; nor should such worthy objects of care, all equally entitled, be remitted to the unequal operation of sympathy, or the tender mercies of social and political influence with their unjust discrimination."

On the 4th of March, 1885, the current business of the patent office was, on an average, five and a half months behind. At the close of the last fiscal year such current work was but three months in arrears, and it is asserted and believed that in the next few months the delay in obtaining an examination of an application for a patent will be but nominal. The number of applications for patents during the last fiscal year, including reissues, designs, trademarks and labels, equals 40,678, which is considerably in excess of the number received during any preceding year. The receipts of the patent office during the year aggregated \$1,345,167.80, enabling the office to turn into the treasury a surplus revenue, over and above all expenditures, of about \$103,710.30.

The number of patents granted during the last fiscal year, including renewals, trademarks, designs and labels, was 25,619—a number also quite largely in excess of that of any preceding year. The report of the commissioner shows the office to be in a prosperous condition and constantly increasing in its business. No increase of force is asked for. The amount estimated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1885, was \$890,761. The amount estimated for the year ending June 30, 1887, was \$923,360. The amount estimated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1888, is \$778,770.

Of the Pacific railroad debt extension proposition, he says, that congress in considering the plan suggested by the secretary of the interior, and endorsed by the board of government directors, the sole matters which should be taken into account are "the situation of the government as a creditor and the surest way to secure the payment of the principal and interest of its debt."

Of interstate commerce he says that by a recent decision of the supreme court of the United States, it has been adjudged that the laws of the several states are inoperative to regulate rates of transportation upon railroads, if such regulation interferes with the rate of carriage from one state into another. This important field of control and regulation having been thus left entirely unoccupied, the expediency of Federal action upon the subject is unworthy of consideration.

Of the relations of labor to capital, the president thinks that when these differences between employer and employed reach such a stage as to result in the interruption of commerce between the states, the application of arbitration by the general government might be regarded as entirely within its constitutional powers, and he thinks we might reasonably hope that such arbitrators, if carefully selected and entitled to the confidence of the parties affected, would be voluntarily called to the settlement of controversies of less extent and not necessarily within the domain of Federal regulation. The president recommends as a plain duty

on the part of the government, the payment of a million and a quarter dollars still due to Freedman's Savings bank depositors.

Civil service reform is the last important topic discussed in the message. The continued operation of the civil service law, he asserts, has added the most convincing proofs of its necessity and usefulness. Every public officer who has a just idea of his duty to the people testifies to the value of this reform. Its staunchest friends are found among those who understand it best, and its warmest supporters are those who are restrained and protected by its requirements. The meaning of such restraint and protection is not appreciated by those who want places under the government regardless of merit or inefficiency nor by those who insist that the selection for such places should rest upon a proper credential showing active partisan work. They mean to public officers, if not their lives, the only opportunity afforded them to attend to public business, and they mean to the good people of the country the better performance of the work of their government.

It is exceedingly strange, the president thinks, that the scope and nature of his reform are so little understood and that so many things not included within its plan are called by its name. When civil yields more fully to examination, the system will have large additions to the number of its friends.

Our civil service reform, the president says, may be imperfect in some of its details; it may be misunderstood and opposed; it may not always be faithfully applied; its designs may sometimes miscarry through mistake or willful intent; it may sometimes tremble under assaults of its enemies or languish under the misguided zeal of impracticable friends, but if the people of this country ever submit to the banishment of its underlying principle from the operation of this government, they will abandon the surest guarantee of the safety and success of American institutions.

In conclusion he invokes for this reform the cheerful and ungrudging support of congress; urges an increase of the salaries of the commissioners and expresses the hope that such reasonable appropriations may be made as will enable them to increase the usefulness of the cause they have in charge.

GEN. GRANT IN SOCIETY.

Mrs. Grant's Tact and Influence at the White House—A Wife's Instinct.

Gen. Grant always desired to conform to the requirements of whatever place he was called upon to fill, and was quite willing to perform his social duties. I accompanied Mrs. Grant when she made her first visit to the White House, over which she was afterward to preside, and Gen. Grant was greatly pleased to have the visit paid. It was an afternoon reception of Mrs. Lincoln's, and Lincoln himself was present. The president had never met Mrs. Grant before and at first did not catch her name, and was allowing her to pass with the customary bow that every one receives, but I repeated, "Mrs. Gen. Grant, Mr. President," and the tall, ungainly man looked down upon his visitor with infinite kindness beaming from his ugly, historic face; then placed both his hands on Mrs. Grant's and welcomed her more than warmly. He asked about the general, and himself presented her to Mrs. Lincoln. The mistress of the White House was also gracious; she invited Mrs. Grant to visit the conservatories and desired her to show them to the lady who was destined herself to dispense the courtesies of the nation in the same executive chamber.

On our way out several great political women seemed inclined to patronize the western general's wife; not, of course, offensively, but still they acted as they would hardly have behaved among or toward themselves. But Mrs. Grant at once detected the assumption of superiority in their courtesies, and asserted herself delicately and skillfully. When they wanted to introduce fine ladies to her in the lobbies of the White House she regretted that her carriage was waiting, but would be happy to receive the ladies at her hotel; and when they offered seats in their boxes at the play, evidently in order to be seen with the wife of the general of the armies, she politely indicated that a box had already been secured for her, and for this she afterward selected her own company.

Her influence, of course, affected her great husband. He had constantly the suggestions of a woman who understood other women, and who knew instinctively what would be said of him and to him, as well as what he wanted him to say and do in return. Naturally she was anxious about the appearance he made in what is called "society." He had been ushered all at once into the most distinguished and exacting circles; he would be watched and criticised as well as welcomed and admired; and with a feminine insight she comprehended both the petty craft and the important ambitions that underlie many of the ceremonies of official life at Washington as well as in aristocratic capitals. When Grant was overmodest or willing to let himself be passed by, there was always the mentor to caution and urge and stimulate and advise; and sometimes the mentor was needed.

—Gen. Adam Badeau's Letter in Courier-Journal.

Terrible Case of Cruelty.

ANDERSON, Ind., Dec. 6.—This community is all stirred up over the alleged fiendish treatment by Joseph Blake and wife, of Mollie Bright, an eleven-year-old girl whom they had taken from the infirmary to raise. The child, it is said, was starved and beaten nearly to death, and would have died in a short time had not her condition been discovered. Blake has disappeared, and the citizens are looking for him. He had very queer religious beliefs, and was a great man for praying.

A Schooner Sunk.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The signal corps station at Cape Henlopen, Del., reports that the American three-masted schooner Cochocho, laden with stone, ran ashore and sunk just outside of the Capes, in a heavy snow storm.

A Hay Barge Blaze.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 6.—Greensburg Hay Barge company burned out this morning. Loss \$14,000, insurance \$5,000.

Death of Congressman Price.

MILWAUKEE, Mich., Dec. 6.—Congressman William T. Price died this morning at his home in Black River Falls.